

Resources for the Journey

Volume 8, Number 3

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A special thanks to the following individuals, congregations, and organizations that made recent donations to the Resource Center for Churches:

- *Dean Wolf*
- *Brenda Clarno*
- *Terri Kloock*
- *Jan Bodin and Deb Braun*
- *Grant from Wayzata Community Church*

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The Torch is Passed: Board hires new Executive Director

by Ginger Stemme

Rev. Rhonda Pittman Gingrich, who “delivered every dream a board could desire” has chosen to move on to new endeavors. The Board wishes Ms. Pittman Gingrich peace and good wishes as she spends more time with her family, engages in freelance writing and continues to pursue avenues of professional development, including plans for some on-line teaching. Ms. Gingrich is still available to lead workshops for local churches. Contact us for more information or go to Services and Workshops on our website.

Ginger Stemme, MLS, was hired by the board at their annual meeting on September 28th and began work on October 3. The Board wishes to thank Lizabeth Bougie, one of their own for service above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Interim Director. The Board also wishes to extend a special thank you to Sally Vanderwerf, Resource Assistant (Extraordinaire!) for all of her help in keeping the Center running during the search for a new director.

Hello! Everyone knows me as Ginger, although my formal name is Virginia L. Stemme. I am pleased to be here in the Resource Center and to meet all of you that I can. Please keep helping me with names and associations over the weeks and months. Following someone who has been around for over 7 years does present a challenge in many arenas, especially in customer recognition. That being said, I really love a challenge!

Skip this section if you don't like trivia.

My life has been full of interesting challenges, beginning with being born over two months premature, when using oxygen in incubators was new (clue to my age for those who like trivia).

I grew up without modern conveniences (plumbing) and survived teenage years *sans* telephone near the Loess hills. (Which state am I from?)

I challenged the school counselors assumptions that I need not take ACT tests because all of my cousins went to work for Mutual of Omaha. I worked with a different school district for the ACT.

I was challenged by a church friend and part-time employer to go to college. I went to Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, for four of the best years of my life. Having already accepted Christ into my personal life, I was immediately involved in the Christian Life Council, which facilitated spiritual growth and fellowship via on-campus programming, off-campus retreats and travel over spring breaks.

College highlights included retreats to the Methodist Camp at Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Morningside is also where I met my husband, Rod Stemme, who is a pastor in the Minnesota United Methodist Conference. We are currently having a great time at Faith United Methodist Church in West St. Paul.

One of my challenges has been finding satisfying library related employment, while following my family around the great state of Minnesota, after completing a Masters in Librarianship and Information Management

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Resource Center Bulletin Board: News and Events

AN EXCITING NEW RESOURCE IS ON ORDER: *Families All Matter Complete Book Kit*. We wish to thank the Wayzata Community Church, Board of Outreach, for a grant to purchase this. See the next issue for details about the grant and the resource.



Children's Titles Available

- *Christmas Tapestry* by Patricia Polacco
- *A Gift from Saint Francis* by Joanna Cole
- *The Christmas Candle* by Richard Paul Evans
- *The Last Straw* by Frederick H. Thury
- *Three Wise Woman* by Mary Hoffman

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Resource Center will be closed: December 21, 4:00 p.m. to January 2, 9:30 a.m.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET FOR THE ETHICAL DILEMMAS ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES? →

The Ethical Dilemmas of Congregational Life: Leading with Integrity A Training and Enrichment Series

Now available on a session by session basis. Just \$40 per session! Come and participate with some of our best Twin Cities Educators. "A current student assured me that our next speaker, Sharon Tan is the best!"

Churches face many issues that are potentially divisive and destructive to the congregation. Often church leaders feel ill-equipped to lead their congregation through these issues without compromising their own ethical integrity (or losing contributing members).

In this series, participants will: develop a basic ethical vocabulary; identify sources of authority and tradition within the Christian community; explore how personal beliefs, belief systems, authority and tradition influence approaches to ethical dilemmas; explore methods for working ethical dilemmas using case studies; explore ways to engage children and youth in conversations about ethics; develop models for exploring divisive issues (without blowing the place apart); and explore ways to build the moral capacity of the congregation.

- *But the Bible Tells Me So: Working the Dilemmas of Authority and Tradition*—Thursday, November 16, 2006
- *What do You Do with What you Know? Working the Dilemmas of Pastoral Care*—Thursday, January 18, 2007
- *When Reasonable People Won't Be Reasonable: Working the Dilemmas of Congregational Leadership*—Thursday, February 15, 2007

- *I Learned It in Sunday School: Working the Dilemmas with Children, Youth, and Parents*—Thursday, March 15, 2007
- *When Agreeing to Disagree Isn't Enough: Working the Dilemmas that Might Be Unworkable*—Thursday, April 19, 2007

The cost will be \$190 for the series OR \$40 per session. Sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m. They will be held at the Minnesota Church Center. For more information or a registration brochure, contact the Resource Center for Churches or go to our website.

Red Balloon Booksale October 31, November 1 and November 2!

122 West Franklin Av
Benefits The Resource Center
for Churches.

Reflections

Many of the happenings in the news lately are of a violent nature. From natural disasters such as the Rogers tornado, to school shootings taking place in such nonviolent corners of the world as Amish country in Pennsylvania, to murders in the Twin Cities areas, the news is raising emotions of grief and anger.

We have a VIDEO in the resource center called *Journey Toward Forgiveness*. Telling riveting stories of persons who have faced anger and forgiveness in the face of violent or wrongful death; near-death from racial injustice; death of ancestors by genocide; and terminal illness, this documentary powerfully demonstrates that those who are able to embark on a journey toward forgiveness find it to be the path to inner healing. (Mennonite Media, Video, 58 minutes Leader's Guide.)

The Torch is Passed: *continued from page 1*

at the University of Denver. School librarianship and curriculum development were my main interests at the time and my thesis was on Images of Aging in Children's Literature. I continue to love children's literature.

I have enjoyed working in schools, teaching television production and being the school librarian at Breck Lower School, Sebeka Public School (K-12) and Moreland Elementary in West St. Paul. I have also enjoyed several decades of service to the public library community. I was Head of Children's Services at Grand Forks (ND) Public Library and director of very small libraries at New York Mills, MN and Springfield, MN. Most of this decade was spent as Regional Public Librarian out of Rochester, MN, for Southeastern Libraries Cooperating (SELCO). It was my pleasure to be in charge of a bookmobile and continuing education for the librarians in the region as well as other outreach services and special events.



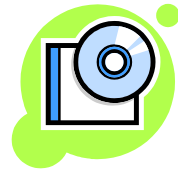
It is with great pleasure I anticipate combining my love of libraries and my love of Christ to support the mission of Minnesota churches. I am especially interested in getting to know the structure, leadership and polity of the four denominations whose vision, prayers and finances support the Resource Center for Churches and provide outreach across our region.

What's at the Resource Center

Abstinence comes to Albuquerque (DV99) Hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent by the federal government on abstinence-from-sex-until-marriage education across America. This compelling documentary is a case study of abstinence education coming into one public school system in Albuquerque, N.M. and the firestorm of controversy that ensued. The debate is typical of what is happening in other communities around the country. This DVD also includes a 60 minute session of frequently asked questions with national experts like William Smith; Louise Melling; Susan Cohen and others. (Stuart Television Productions, DVD, 29 minutes.)

Nooma: Rich (DV101) We can get anything we want, from anywhere in the world, whenever we want it. That's how it is and that's how we want it to be. Still, our lives aren't any different than other generations before us. There's a popular bumper sticker that reads "God Bless America," but hasn't America already been blessed? It's easy for us to fall into a mindset of viewing "our" world as "the" world, because it's all we generally see. We're constantly bombarded with images of the latest styles and models of everything, and it can easily leave us feeling like what we have isn't enough because we see people that have even more than us. But how does what we have compared to what most people in the world have? Maybe what we have is enough; maybe it's more than enough. Maybe God has blessed us with everything we have so we can bless and give to others. (Zondervan Publishing Company, DVD, 12 minutes)

Parables from the Back Side (DV102) The Planning Kit contains a DVD with twelve 10-minute sessions, plus "Meet J. Ellsworth Kalas"; one copy of the book *Parables from the Back Side*; and one copy of the video study *Leader's Guide*. (Abingdon Press, DVD, 24 minutes.)



Saving Jesus (DV 104) Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right? *Saving Jesus* is a revolutionary dvd-based small group exploration of Jesus Christ for the third millennium. Featuring leading religious voices of our day, the 12-week program includes a printable participant reader and a facilitator guide offering discussion questions. The basic format for each weekly 1 – 1 ½ hour session includes conversation around the readings, a 20-minute video segment and guided discussion. Join Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Matthew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, James Forbes and a host of others for a conversation around the relevance of Jesus Christ for today. The themes are: 1) Introduction: Jesus through the Ages; 2) Who was Jesus? Featuring Matthew Fox; 3) What Can We Know About Jesus (and How)? 4) The World into Which Jesus Was Born Featuring John Dominic Crossan; 5) Jesus' Birth: Incarnation; 6) Teachings of Jesus: Wisdom Tradition Featuring Bernard Brandon Scott; 7) Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God Featuring John Dominic Crossan; 8) Jesus' Ministry of Compassion; 9) Killing Jesus, Part One: Who Killed Jesus? Featuring Amy-Jill Levine & Helen Prejean; 10) Killing Jesus, Part Two: The Atonement Featuring Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker; 11) The Resurrection of Christ Featuring James Forbes; 12) Why Jesus Is Worth Saving Featuring Marcus Borg (Living The Questions, DVD, 20 minute segments, 12 sessions)



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Your Partner in Ministry

The Resource Center for Churches partners with congregations in ministry by providing print and audio-visual resources, consultation services, training, and networking to facilitate the journey of faith.

It is an ecumenical ministry of the: Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota; Minnesota Annual Conference United Methodist Church; Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ; Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area; Synod of Lakes and Prairies (PCUSA).

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Ginger Stemme, Director
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Board

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WAL-MART: THE HIGH COST OF LOW PRICE (VD4067) is a feature length documentary that uncovers a retail giant's assault on families and American values. The film dives into the deeply personal stories and everyday lives of families and communities struggling to fight a goliath. (Brave New Films, DVD, 97 minutes)

Call Me Malcolm (DV100) United Church of Christ (DVD, 90 minutes) (Transgender issue resource.)

Honoring God's Creation: Christianity and Vegetarianism, (DV103) Christian Vegetarian Association (DVD, 30 minutes)

The Perfect Stranger (DV105) based on book *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger* by Jefferson Moore Kelly's Filmworks (DVD, 105 minutes)

PRINT:

Access Sunday 2006 Household of God (PK5) Presbyterian Church, 2005

David, The Shepherd King (CR1181) Logos-Curriculum, 2005

Butterflies Under Our Hats (CL251) Paraclete Press, 2006

Secret of Saying Thanks (CL244) By Minnesota's own Douglas Wood with Greg Shed. Simon & Schuster, 2005

New This Week:

Season of Light and Hope; Prayers and Liturgies for Advent and Christmas, by Blair Gilmer Meeks. Abingdon Press, 2005.

Everlasting Light: A Resource for Advent Worship, by Sandy Dixon, Chalice Press, 2000.

Advent & Christmas; Services & Video Clips on DVD, (Igniting Worship Series), by Dottie Escobedo-Frank & Spirit Films, Abingdon Press, 2005.

The Very Important Christmas Pageant; The Story of the Birth of Christ Told with Humor, Mystery and Awe!, by Dennis Hartin, Abingdon, 2006. (Includes CD)

Check out our online catalog: www.resourcesforthejourney.org Click on *Reserving a Resource*, then choose: *Search Our Online Catalog* Search by title, author, subject or descriptive term.

NOTE: To view only new titles enter the date 9/28/06 in the Description field. Entering 12/7/06, the date of our next board meeting, brings up a bibliography of the latest acquisitions.

